Corrected List of Claims

CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

1 2. (Canceled)

1 3. (Canceled)

2 4. (Canceled)

1 5. (Canceled)

Approved, please enter SBlau 3/6/05

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The telescoping golf club of claim 4,~~ A telescoping golf club, comprising:

a tubular proximal shaft segment;

a tubular intermediate shaft segment telescopically and slidingly fitting into said proximal shaft segment;

a distal shaft segment telescopically and slidingly fitting into said intermediate shaft segment and comprising a shaft distal end;

a club head fastened to said shaft distal end;

and shaft segment stop means preventing said intermediate shaft segment from sliding entirely out of said proximal shaft segment and preventing said distal shaft segment from sliding entirely out of said intermediate shaft segment;

wherein said proximal shaft segment and said intermediate shaft segment each have an interior surface and wherein said intermediate shaft segment and said distal shaft segment each have an exterior surface;

and wherein said shaft segment stop means comprises:

a first extension stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said proximal shaft segment, said first extension stop collar having an interior diameter sized such that said intermediate shaft segment fits slidingly inside said first extension stop collar and telescopingly within said proximal shaft segment;

a second extension stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said intermediate shaft segment, said second extension stop collar having an interior diameter sized such that said distal

shaft segment fits slidingly inside said second extension stop collar and telescopingly within said intermediate shaft segment;

a first retraction stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said proximal shaft segment;

a second retraction stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said intermediate shaft segment;

and a first dual abutment collar fastened to the exterior surface of said intermediate shaft segment and sized in exterior diameter such that said proximal shaft segment fits slidingly around and over said second dual abutment collar;

a second dual abutment collar fastened to the exterior surface of said distal shaft segment and sized in exterior diameter such that said intermediate shaft segment fits slidingly around and over said first dual abutment collar;

such that said first retraction stop collar abuts said first dual abutment collar and said second retraction stop collar simultaneously abuts said second dual abutment collar upon full telescopic retraction of said club shaft, and such that said first extension stop collar abuts said first dual abutment collar and said second extension stop collar simultaneously abuts said second dual abutment collar upon full telescopic extension of said club shaft;

wherein said first and second retraction stop collars each comprise a circumferential collar distal edge divided into a collar locking notch and a collar locking projection;

and wherein said first and second dual abutment collars each

comprise a circumferential collar proximal edge divided into a collar locking notch and a collar locking projection;

such that interlocking of collar locking notches and collar locking projections causes said retraction stop collars and said dual abutment collars to function to prevent axial rotation of the respective shaft segments to which they are attached.

7. (Currently Amended) The telescoping golf club of claim 6, wherein said first and second extension stop collars each comprise a circumferential collar ~~distal~~ proximal edge divided into a collar locking notch and a collar locking projection;

and wherein said first and second dual abutment collars each comprise a circumferential collar distal edge divided into a collar locking notch and a collar locking projection;

such that interlocking of collar locking notches and collar locking projections causes said extension stop collars and said dual abutment collars to function to prevent axial rotation of the respective shaft segments to which they are attached.

8. (Original) The telescoping golf club of claim 6, wherein said locking projections comprise projection outward ends and rounded projection centering corners at said projection outward ends, which are also the outward corners of adjacent said notches,

such that as a projection is advanced toward an opposing notch and yet is laterally offset a certain distance from the notch, the rounded projection centering corners of opposing locking projections contact each other and cause the locking projections to advance progressively into, and slide laterally toward a position centered over the opposing notch and, when centered, the projection enters and slides fully into the notch.

9. (Original) The telescoping golf club of claim 6, wherein each said collar locking notch and each said collar locking projection constitutes substantially 180 degrees of the given circumferential collar distal edge.

10. (Currently Amended) The telescoping golf club of claim ~~1~~ 6, wherein said club head comprises a club head bore into which said club shaft proximal end is fitted and secured.

11. (Currently Amended) A telescoping shaft, comprising:

a tubular proximal shaft segment;

a tubular intermediate shaft segment telescopically and slidingly fitting into said proximal shaft segment;

a distal shaft segment telescopically and slidingly fitting into said intermediate shaft segment and comprising a shaft distal end;

and shaft segment stop means preventing said intermediate shaft segment from sliding entirely out of said proximal shaft segment and preventing said distal shaft segment from sliding entirely out of said intermediate shaft segment;

wherein said proximal shaft segment and said intermediate shaft segment each have an interior surface and wherein said intermediate shaft segment and said distal shaft segment each have an exterior surface;

and wherein said shaft segment stop means comprises:

a first extension stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said proximal shaft segment, said first extension stop collar having an interior diameter sized such that said intermediate shaft segment fits slidingly inside said first extension stop collar and telescopingly within said proximal shaft segment; a second extension stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said intermediate shaft segment, said second extension stop collar having an interior diameter sized such that said distal shaft segment fits slidingly inside said second extension stop collar and telescopingly within said intermediate shaft segment; a first

retraction stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said proximal shaft segment; a second retraction stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said intermediate shaft segment; and a first dual abutment collar fastened to the exterior surface of said intermediate shaft segment and sized in exterior diameter such that said proximal shaft segment fits slidingly around and over said second dual abutment collar; a second dual abutment collar fastened to the exterior surface of said distal shaft segment and sized in exterior diameter such that said intermediate shaft segment fits slidingly around and over said first dual abutment collar; such that said first retraction stop collar abuts said first dual abutment collar and said second retraction stop collar simultaneously abuts said second dual abutment collar upon full telescopic retraction of said shaft, and such that said first extension stop collar abuts said first dual abutment collar and said second extension stop collar simultaneously abuts said second dual abutment collar upon full telescopic extension of said shaft;

wherein said first and second retraction stop collars and said first and second dual abutment collars comprise relative rotation stop means preventing relative axial rotation of the respective shaft segments to which they are attached.

12. (Currently Amended) The telescoping shaft of claim 11, wherein said first dual abutment collar is located adjacent to the proximal end of said intermediate shaft segment and wherein said second dual abutment collar is located adjacent to the proximal end of said distal shaft segment;

~~and wherein said first extension stop collar is located adjacent to the distal end of said intermediate shaft segment and wherein said second extension stop collar is located adjacent to the distal end of said distal shaft segment~~

and wherein said first extension stop collar is located adjacent to the distal end of said proximal shaft segment and wherein said second extension stop collar is located adjacent to the distal end of said intermediate shaft segment.

13. (Currently Amended) The telescoping shaft of claim 11, wherein said first and second retraction stop collars each comprise a circumferential collar distal edge, and wherein said relative rotation stop means comprises divisions of said circumferential collar distal edges into ~~divided into~~ a collar locking notch and a collar locking projection;

and wherein said first and second dual abutment collars each comprise a circumferential collar proximal edge divided into a collar locking notch and a collar locking projection;

such that interlocking of collar locking notches and collar locking projections causes said retraction stop collars and said dual abutment collars to function to prevent axial rotation of the

respective shaft segments to which they are attached.

14. (Currently Amended) The telescoping shaft of claim 13, wherein said first and second extension stop collars each comprise a circumferential collar ~~distal~~ proximal edge divided into a collar locking notch and a collar locking projection;

and wherein said first and second dual abutment collars each comprise a circumferential collar distal edge divided into a collar locking notch and a collar locking projection;

such that interlocking of collar locking notches and collar locking projections causes said extension stop collars and said dual abutment collars to function to prevent axial rotation of the respective shaft segments to which they are attached.

15. (Original) The telescoping shaft of claim 13, wherein said locking projections comprise projection outward ends and rounded projection centering corners at said projection outward ends, which are also the outward corners of adjacent said notches,

such that as a projection is advanced toward an opposing notch and yet is laterally offset a certain distance from the notch, the rounded projection centering corners of opposing locking projections contact each other and cause the locking projections to advance progressively into, and slide laterally toward a position centered over the opposing notch and, when centered, the projection enters and slides fully into the notch.

16. (Original) The telescoping shaft of claim 13, wherein each said collar locking notch and each said collar locking projection constitutes substantially 180 degrees of the given circumferential collar distal edge.

17. (New) A telescoping golf club, comprising:

a tubular proximal shaft segment;

a tubular intermediate shaft segment telescopically and slidingly fitting into said proximal shaft segment;

a distal shaft segment telescopically and slidingly fitting into said intermediate shaft segment and comprising a shaft distal end;

and shaft segment stop means preventing said intermediate shaft segment from sliding entirely out of said proximal shaft segment and preventing said distal shaft segment from sliding entirely out of said intermediate shaft segment;

wherein said proximal shaft segment and said intermediate shaft segment each have an interior surface and wherein said intermediate shaft segment and said distal shaft segment each have an exterior surface;

and wherein said shaft segment stop means comprises:

a first extension stop structure fastened to the interior surface of said proximal shaft segment, said first extension stop structure being sized such that said intermediate shaft segment fits slidingly adjacent said first extension stop structure and telescopingly within said proximal shaft segment; a second

extension stop structure fastened to the interior surface of said intermediate shaft segment, said second extension stop structure being sized such that said distal shaft segment fits slidingly adjacent said second extension stop structure and telescopingly within said intermediate shaft segment; a first retraction stop structure fastened to the interior surface of said proximal shaft segment; a second retraction stop structure fastened to the interior surface of said intermediate shaft segment; and a first dual abutment structure fastened to the exterior surface of said intermediate shaft segment and sized such that said proximal shaft segment fits slidingly around and over said second dual abutment structure; a second dual abutment structure fastened to the exterior surface of said distal shaft segment and sized such that said intermediate shaft segment fits slidingly around and over said first dual abutment structure; such that said first retraction stop structure abuts said first dual abutment structure and said second retraction stop structure simultaneously abuts said second dual abutment structure upon full telescopic retraction of said shaft, and such that said first extension stop structure abuts said first dual abutment structure and said second extension stop structure simultaneously abuts said second dual abutment structure upon full telescopic extension of said shaft;

wherein said first and second retraction stop structures and said first and second dual abutment structures comprise relative rotation stop means preventing relative axial rotation of the respective shaft segments to which they are attached.